



Division of Food and Recreational Safety

March 30, 2020

Guidelines for Essential Recreational Businesses during the 'Safer at Home' Order

On March 24, 2020, [Emergency Order No. 12](#) was issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) at the direction of Gov. Tony Evers to slow the spread of COVID-19. This order mandates that nonessential businesses statewide cease all activities. The "Safer at Home" order is in effect until 8 a.m. on April 24, 2020, or until superseded by another order.

You are receiving this message to clarify whether your recreational business is considered *essential*. Please review the information below as it relates to your business operations, and whether there are any special requirements for you to operate.

Nonessential businesses include recreational and educational camps; and public swimming pools, hot tubs and water attractions (water parks). These businesses must cease operations.

Therapy pools used by patients at medical facilities may continue to operate.

Essential businesses include hotels and motels; tourist rooming houses; bed and breakfast establishments; and campgrounds. These businesses can remain in operation but must:

- Comply with requirements of Sections 13.b (selling groceries and medicine), 13.d (restaurant operations) and 13.e (bar operation) in Emergency Order No. 12.
- Close swimming pools, hot tubs and exercise facilities.

- Follow social distancing requirements of at least 6 feet between all individuals to the maximum extent possible.
- Prohibit guests from congregating in lobbies or other common areas. That means providing adequate space to adhere to social distancing between all people while queuing for front desk services.
- Avoid meeting in person whenever possible. Switch to virtual meetings, teleconference and remote work.
- Comply with all [Department of Health Services guidelines for businesses](#).

Find additional guidance from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) at these links:

- [Lodging facilities](#)
- [Campgrounds](#)

Anyone needing clarification on essential and nonessential businesses can visit the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) website at <https://wedc.org/essentialbusiness/>. The page includes a form to contact the WEDC with specific questions.

Additional COVID-19 resources for businesses and employers, such as cleaning and disinfection protocols for frequently touched surfaces, can be found at the [DHS website](#).

